

CLAIMS

1. A working chamber for a blasting plant which is provided with a robot arm for the manipulation of a workpiece to be blasted and having a chamber wall which has an access opening for the introduction of the robot arm, with a sealing device being provided in the region of the access opening and making a seal between the robot arm and the chamber wall, the working chamber comprising: a sealing element fastened to the robot arm, and rotatable about a longitudinal axis of the robot arm and provides a seal between the robot arm and the chamber wall when the robot arm is introduced into the working chamber.
2. The working chamber in accordance with claim 1, wherein the sealing element is brought into a sealing engagement with the chamber wall solely by pressing the robot arm against the chamber wall.
3. The working chamber in accordance with claim 1, wherein a further sealing element is also provided at the chamber wall.
4. The working chamber in accordance with claim 1, wherein the sealing element has two parts of which one is firmly fastened to the robot arm and the other is rotatable relative to the one part about the longitudinal axis of the robot arm.
5. The working chamber in accordance with claim 1, wherein the sealing element extends up to and into the interior of the working chamber when the robot arm is introduced into the working chamber.
6. The working chamber in accordance with claim 1, wherein the sealing element has two parts which are pushed into one another.
7. The working chamber in accordance with claim 1, wherein the sealing element has a hollow space which is provided with outlet openings for blasting medium.

8. The working chamber in accordance with claim 1, wherein the sealing element has a ring web which can be brought into engagement with the outer periphery of the access opening.
9. The working chamber in accordance with claim 1, wherein at least one part of the sealing element is displaceable relative to the robot arm along said longitudinal axis when the sealing element is pressed against the chamber wall by the robot arm.
10. The working chamber in accordance with claim 1, wherein the sealing element is movable against the force of a spring in the direction of the longitudinal axis of the robot arm.
11. The working chamber in accordance with claim 1, wherein the robot arm is protected by an additional seal, said seal comprising rubber bellows, inside the sealing element.
12. The working chamber in accordance with claim 1, wherein a wiper element is arranged at the side of the sealing element directed toward the working chamber.
13. A method for providing a seal between a chamber wall of a working chamber for a blasting unit, and a robot arm introduced into the working chamber through an access opening, with a sealing element being fastened to the robot arm or to the chamber wall, comprising in that one of the robot arm is pressed against the sealing element with a specified minimum pressing force and the sealing element is pressed against the chamber wall by the robot arm with said minimum pressing force at all times during a blasting process in order to achieve a seal between the chamber wall and the robot arm.
14. The method in accordance with claim 13, wherein the robot arm is at least one of rotated about its longitudinal axis during the blasting process and is moved along its longitudinal axis.

15. The method in accordance with claim 13, wherein the minimum pressing force is at least partly exerted by the force of a spring.